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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,220	07/01/2003	Thomas Bradley Beddard	839-1470	1219
30024	7590	02/23/2005	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C./G.E. 1100 N. GLEBE RD. SUITE 800 ARLINGTON, VA 22201			KERNS, KEVIN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1725	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/604,220

Applicant(s)

BEDDARD ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin P. Kerns

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/23/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obrochta et al. (US 4,283,835) in view of the applicant's admitted prior art (paragraph [0002] of applicant's specification).

Obrochta et al. disclose a cambered core positioning system for use in casting of gas turbine airfoils, in which the cambered ceramic core 20 includes a solid curved upper body portion; a pair of substantially planar legs extending downwardly from the upper body portion, with the upper body portion being curved to form opposite concave 26' and convex 26 surfaces, and the pair of legs being separated by an elongated slot 37; and a plurality (arranged in pairs) of laterally aligned pegs (fixed pins 28,30,32 cooperating with respective spring-loaded movable peripheral pins 28',30',32', as well as cooperating movable centerline pins 34,34',36,36') projecting axially from opposite sides of the convex surface 26 of the upper body portion above and closer to the elongated slot 37, but spaced from an upper edge of the upper body portion (abstract; column 2, lines 55-68; column 3, lines 1-26; column 4, line 9 through column 7, line 54; and Figures 1-3). Obrochta et al. do not disclose that the pair of legs is co-planar.

However, the applicant's admitted prior art discloses a stage 1 gas turbine bucket that includes a (co-planar) "pants-leg" shaped core operable to form a pair of cooling passages to improve the cooling scheme of the turbine bucket (see paragraph [0002] of applicant's specification).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to modify the design of the pair of legs of the cambered core used for casting gas turbine airfoils, as disclosed by Obrochta et al., by using a co-planar "pants-leg" shaped core, as taught by the applicant's admitted prior art, in order to form a pair of cooling passages to improve the cooling scheme of the turbine bucket (paragraph [0002] of applicant's specification).

3. Claims 3, 4, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obrochta et al. (US 4,283,835) in view of the applicant's admitted prior art (paragraph [0002] of applicant's specification) as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of either Willett et al. (EP 1 022 434 A2) or Lee (US 6,234,753).

Obrochta et al. (in view of the applicant's admitted prior art) disclose the elements of claims 1 and 2 above. Neither Obrochta et al. nor the applicant's admitted prior art specifically discloses pegs of elliptical cross section.

However, Willett et al. disclose a gas turbine blade cooling configuration for gas turbine buckets, in which the cooling configuration is provided by one or more elliptically-shaped radial cooling passages 54 formed by utilizing elliptically-shaped quartz rods (pegs) within the ceramic core, such that the use of elliptically-shaped

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quartz rods (pegs) provides the advantages of creating coolant cross flow between adjacent radial passages while minimizing stress concentration in the bucket (abstract; paragraphs [0005]-[0010]; and Figures 1-3).

In addition, Lee discloses a turbine airfoil with internal cooling, in which the internal cooling is provided by a plurality of core tie holes (42,142) that are preferably elliptical in cross-section, such that the core tie holes (42,142) would necessarily be created by using core supports in the form of elliptical pegs/rods, with the elliptical core tie holes providing the advantages of controlling coolant cross flow between adjacent radial passages (via minimizing pressure differential) while minimizing stress in the turbine airfoil (abstract; column 2, lines 10-17 and 40-67; column 3, line 1 through column 5, line 53; and Figures 1 and 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicants' invention was made to modify the cambered ceramic core disclosed by Obrochta et al., by using a co-planar "pants-leg" shaped core, as taught by the applicant's admitted prior art, in order to form a pair of cooling passages to improve the cooling scheme of the turbine bucket, and by further using pegs/pins with elliptical shapes, as taught/suggested individually by Willett et al. and Lee, in order to create coolant cross flow between adjacent radial passages while minimizing stress concentration in the bucket (Willett et al.; paragraphs [0005] and [0010]), and in order to control coolant cross flow between adjacent radial passages (via minimizing pressure differential) while minimizing stress in the turbine airfoil (Lee; column 3, lines 29-31 and 62-67; column 4, lines 1-5 and 25-67; and column 5, lines 1-53).

Response to Arguments

4. The examiner acknowledges the applicant's amendment and Information Disclosure Statement received by the USPTO on December 22, 2004 and November 23, 2004, respectively. The IDS has been considered and initialed, and a copy is provided with this Office Action. The applicant's amendment overcomes the prior objections to the abstract, specification, and claims. The applicant has cancelled non-elected claims 10-15. Claims 1-9 are currently under consideration in the application.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

With regard to the applicant's arguments that address the Obrochta et al. reference on page 7 of the remarks/arguments, the examiner agrees with the applicant that the pair of legs disclosed in Obrochta et al. are not co-planar, prompting the grounds of rejection that include the applicant's admitted prior art. However, the examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assertion that Obrochta et al. do not teach a "solid, curved upper body portion". In the 2nd paragraph on page 7 of the remarks/arguments, the applicant states that there are "two planar portions intersecting at a curved portion along the entire length of the core". The "curved portion" indeed exists in the upper body portion, and thus does not further limit claims 1 and 7 with respect to Obrochta et al.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kevin P. Kerns whose telephone number is (571) 272-1178. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin P. Kerns *Kevin Kerns 2/18/05*
Examiner
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KPK
kpk
February 18, 2005